THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, September 1, 1800.

Some Account of the Lama of Tibet, and his Mother.

THE ſuperſtitious veneration paid by the inhabitants of Tibet to the Lama is well known. Captain Turner was introduced to this human idol and his mother, whom he thus deſcribes in his embaſſy to that kingdom:

"The ſcene, in which I was here brought to act a part, was too new and extraordinary, however trivial, or perhaps prepoſterous it may appear to ſome, not to claim from me great attention, and conſequently minute remark.

"Teſhoo Lama was at this time 18 months old. Though he was unable to ſpeak a word, he made the moſt expreſſive ſigns, and conducted himſelf with aſtoniſhing dignity and decorum. His complexion was of that hue, which in England we ſhould term rather brown, but not without colour. His features were good; he had ſmall black eyes, and an animated expreſſion of countenance; altogether, I thought him one of the handſomeſt children I had ever ſeen.

"His mother, who ſtood by him, appeared to be about 25 years of age; ſhe was low in perſon, but rather handſome, though poſſeſſing a true Tartar countenance. Her complexion was ſomewhat darker than her ſon's; ſhe had regular features, black eyes, and a character that particularly diſtinguiſhes ladies of rank in Tibet; the corner of the eyelids being extended as far as poſſible, by artificial means, towards the temples. Her hair was black, but ſcarcely viſible, from the vaſt profuſion of ornaments that nearly covered it, conſiſting of pearls, rubies, emeralds, and coral. Pearls inter-

mixed with beads of gold, and ſome rubies, conſtituted the ornaments of her ears. Chaplets of larger gems hung round her neck, among which were balaſs rubies, lapis lazuli, amber and coral in numerous wreaths, one chaplet beneath the other, deſcending to the waiſt. Her veſt was cloſe buttoned round the neck. A girdle embraced it round the waiſt, which was faſtened by a golden buckle, having a large ruby in the centre. A garnet-coloured ſhawl, wrought with white ſtars, completed her dreſs, which deſcended to the knee; ſhe wore bulgar boots.

"Gyap, the father of the Lama, was dreſſed in a yellow ſatin garment, wrought with gold, and emblazoned with the Imperial dragon. Our converſation was extremely limited; the Lama's father ſaid, that he had inſtructions from Teſhoo Loomboo to entertain me four days, and he preſſed me ſo earneſtly to ſtay one more, on his account, that I could not decline the invitation. The place he named for our meeting on the morrow, was juſt beyond the borders of the monaſtery, in a ſmall pavilion, which had been erected for his occaſional retirement and recreation; the uſe of the bow, in which he delighted, being deemed indecorous within the limits of the monaſtery, as indeed was every kind of idle ſport, that ſeemed inconſiſtent with the character of the place."

An Account of the Yellow Fever which prevailed in the City of Philadelphia, in the Year 1793.

[Publiſhed at Philadelphia in Poulſon's Almanack for the Year 1795.]

AMONG the domeſtic occurrences that arreſted the attention of the citizens of the United States, in the courſe of the year 1793, the rage of the yellow fever in the city of Philadelphia deſerves to be recorded as the moſt remarkable. The diſorder, diſtinguiſhed by this appellation, is highly contagious and mortal, and leads in its train all the horrors of a peſtilence. A diſeaſe ſo dreadful in itſelf, and ſo unuſual in this country, could not fail to occaſion univerſal terror and confuſion during its prevalence, and general curioſity and diſcuſſion after it had ſubſided. The public have already been preſented with the ſucceſſive publications of Mr. Carey, Mr. Helmuth, Dr. Naſſy, Dr. Cathral, Dr. Currie, Dr. Deveze, and Dr. Ruſh, and the minutes of the active and uſeful committee of citizens. Theſe productions will

will tranſmit to poſterity an accurate and comprehenſive hiſtory of the fever, and throw the cleareſt light upon the future reſearches of ſcience or curioſity. The preſent conciſe account is offered only to thoſe who have not an opportunity of peruſing theſe productions.

The ſtate of the weather, ſome time prevous to the appearance of the fever, deſerves to be particularly noticed. It was, in general, warm and dry, and ſeemed to poſſeſs a quality that rendered it uncommonly enervating and depreſſing to the human frame. The feelings and recollection of many perſons who have been ſo fortunate as to eſcape the fever entirely, or to ſurvive its attacks, will ſufficiently eſtabliſh the truth of this obſervation. But, whether the generation of the diſorder may be attributed to this circumſtance, or to exhalations from putrid vegetable matter; or whether it was generated at all in this country, is a ſubject on which doctors have diſagreed, and I ſhall not attempt to decide. It ſeems, however, to be agreed on all hands, that the ſenſible qualities of the atmoſphere had a ſtriking effect, in rendering the contagion more or leſs active.

The yellow fever appeared in the city of Philadelphia about the beginning of Auguſt. Dr. Cathrall attended a patient at Denny's lodging-houſe, in Water-ſtreet, on the 3d of Auguſt. On the 5th of Auguſt, Dr. Ruſh was requeſted by Dr. Hodge to viſit his child. He obſerves, that he found the child ill with a fever of the bilious kind, accompanied with a yellow ſkin, which terminated in death on the ſeventh of the ſame month.

On the 6th of Auguſt, Dr. Ruſh was called to attend two perſons with ſimilar ſymptoms, and viſited ſeveral between that day and the 19th following. It does not appear, however, that even the phyſicians had any apprehenſion of the exiſtence of a malignant contagious fever in the city before the 19th; and, even after that period, ſome of the profeſſion diſputed its exiſtence. But the alarm ſeems then to have ſpread pretty rapidly, for on the 22d of Auguſt, our vigilant and intrepid Mayor, Matthew Clarkſon, Eſq. addreſſed the city commiſſioners, and directed them to cleanſe and purify the ſtreets immediately. On the 23d or 24th, the governor of the commonwealth directed an inquiry to aſcertain the facts reſpecting the exiſtence of a contagious diſorder in the city, and the probable means of removing it. Dr. Hutchinſon, the phyſician of the port, in anſwer to the firſt queſtion, ſtated the exiſtence of an infectious malignant fever, and the ravages it had already made within the circles of his inquiries.

ries*. In anſwer to the ſecond, he referred to the recommendations of the College of Phyſicians reſpecting the prevention and treatment of the diſorder, which were, at the ſame time, made public.

The public calamity was now no longer queſtionable. Terror, confuſion, and diſtraction ſpread rapidly from breaſt to breaſt, and from family to family. The citizens ceaſed to regard with pleaſure their ſeats of thriving induſtry and flouriſhing commerce. Thoſe of them whoſe connections afforded an aſylum, or whoſe circumſtances permitted them to ſeek one, gradually abandoned the city, and retired to different parts of the United States; and the horizon of horror ſeemed to be cloſing ſwiftly on thoſe who remained behind.

In the progreſs of this fatal diſorder, it was obſerved, that the fear of death, and the deſire of ſafety, predominated over every principle of generoſity, gratitude, and duty. The near approach of danger ſeemed to have diſſolved the tender connections of parent and child—of brother and ſiſter—of huſband and wife. That amiable enthuſiaſm—that heroiſm of affection, which, might have been ſo conſpicuouſly diſplayed on this occaſion, was ſought for in vain. All the charities of human nature were contracted into a ſmall circle, and that little circle was *ſelf*.

In making this obſervation, which muſt be grating to the feelings of many of my poor fellow citizens, I follow Mr. Carey, in his popular hiſtory of the fever. As a general obſervation I believe it is well founded; but, from the maſs of the people, I have no doubt a thouſand amiable inſtances of contrary conduct might be ſelected. To detail theſe would be a moſt agreeable office; but voluntarily ſhrinking from public applauſe, or ſunk perhaps to the ſilent grave, what hiſtorian ſhall enrich his annals with their virtues? What penetrating eye has darted into the deſerted chamber of diſeaſe and deſpair, and ſeen the affectionate wife binding the temples of her huſband, or the weeping daughter kneeling beſide the bed of her father? Amiable ſex!—who know ſo well to rob the barbed ſhafts of pain of half their aſperity—your gentle offices, I am perſuaded, were not entirely neglected at this important criſis. But it is the fate of female heroiſm to ſpread no farther than the borders of their own

* It appears by the regiſter of deaths, that about two hundred perſons had been carried off by the fever at this time.

own families; while the magnanimity of men is ſtamped on medals, and handed down in records to poſterity.

At this period of total ſtagnation of buſineſs, the weight of the public calamity fell very heavily on the poor. Without the means of eſcape, without reſources for ſubſiſtence, and placed in thoſe narrow alleys, and crowded and dirty receſſes, in which the fever raged with the moſt deſtructive violence; ſuch of them as were not ſwept at once into the grave, were thrown upon the public charity. At the approach of the diſorder moſt of the guardians of the poor had left the city, and thoſe of them who remained, though active and benevolent, found themſelves utterly unequal to the additional duties which now devolved upon them. The neceſſity of an hoſpital for the infected was immediately felt and acknowledged, and Buſh Hill, the ſeat of William Hamilton, Eſq. a large and commodious edifice, ſituated near the city, but aloof from the neighbourhood of any other dwelling-houſes, was, after ſome time, fixed upon, and taken poſſeſſion of. To this place the ſick were ſent, and here they were provided for and attended. On the 10th of September, an advertiſement under the ſignature of the Mayor, announced that the guardians of the poor were diſtreſſed for want of aſſiſtance, and invited the aid of benevolent citizens. A meeting of the citizens was held on the 12th, and another on the 14th of September. At this laſt meeting, the committee, who rendered themſelves ſo eminently uſeful in theſe times of general diſtreſs, were nominated. The committee conſiſted, originally, of twenty-ſix members, and, as neceſſity demanded their immediate organization, they proceeded directly to buſineſs. Stephen Girard and Peter Helm offered themſelves as ſuperintendants to the hoſpital at Buſh Hill. This dangerous duty they diſcharged with a zeal and activity which does them the higheſt honour, and merits the warmeſt gratitude of their fellow-citizens. Dr. Deveze, a phyſician from Cape Francois, and Dr. Duffield, of this city, devoted their profeſſional labours to the ſervice of the ſick. Under the direction of theſe gentlemen the hoſpital was kept in excellent order, and furniſhed with every requiſite for the comfort and convenience of the afflicted. Numerous nurſes and aſſiſtants, and three reſident phyſicians, and an apothecary, ſecured to the patients every benefit of careful attendance, and immediate medical aid*. At firſt, as was natural to expect, the citizens regarded the

* Vide Minutes of the Committee, page 52, the Report upon the State of the Hoſpital.

the hoſpital with horror, as the promiſcuous retreat of deſpairing victims, who were conveyed thither to expire at a diſtance from their friends. But it was afterwards regarded as the ſafeſt aſylum for the infected, and many perſons who needed not the benefit of the poor laws, were, at their own requeſt, removed thither, as to a place where they might be ſecure of every poſſible attention and aſſiſtance.

In the rapid progreſs the diſeaſe made, from the time the Committee of Health was organized, till the middle of October, many families in the city, of ſome reſpectability, actually ſuffered for the want of menial aid. The Widow Mills's family, in Race-ſtreet, to the number of ſeven, were all ill with the fever, in the early part of September, and had no other nurſe but a black man, who viſited them frequently every day, but who had other families in the ſame manner under his care, and was, of conſequence, often abſent. The family ſuffered extremely, till a young man, a nephew of the widow's, heard of their diſtreſs, and heroically devoted himſelf to their relief: inſtructed only by his humanity, he became a tender, faithful, and ſolicitous nurſe. Two of the family died—the reſt recovered under his affectionate care; but, a few days after, and under the ſame roof, he himſelf ſunk a victim to his own virtuous zeal. Virtue, wherever it appears, ennobles the poſſeſſor, however humble his external ſituation may be. This young man's name was Charles Halden—he had been an apprentice to Joſeph Budd, of this city, and was about twenty years of age. This effort of courageous humanity deſerves the greater applauſe, as he never expected to ſurvive it.

The diſorder ſeems to have been attended with the greateſt mortality between the 8th and 14th of October. The burials, during that interval, average one hundred daily; and nothing could exceed the melancholy ſituation of the ſurvivors. Almoſt all the officers of government had forſaken the city: above twenty thouſand inhabitants had likewiſe fled, and near three thouſand houſes were ſhut up. Every day added to the bills of mortality the names of valuable citizens, to whom the people had looked up with eyes of hope and expectation. Social intercourſe was at an end—the barred manſion admitted no longer the ſteps of inquiſitive familiarity, or ſoothing affection. The citizens turned their eyes, ſullen with continual grief, diſtreſsfully upon every approaching object.

A friend of mine, who remained in the city during the whole reign of the diſorder, informed me, that, on the even-

ing of a day in which the mortality around him had been very great, and ſeveral of his intimate acquaintances had fallen, he retired to bed at his uſual hour; but, tortured with melancholy reflections, was unable to take any repoſe. He roſe, and throwing up the ſaſh of a front window, looked into the ſtreet. The moon caſt her paleſt beams upon the proſpect, and the death-like ſilence which reigned around was interrupted only by the loud and piercing ſhrieks of departing victims, and the low rumbling noiſe of carriages removing the dead. Sometimes he would ſee a freſh corpſe ſilently let down from a caſement, and being placed upon ſhafts, fall into a long, ſlow, and ſolemn march of an endleſs train of coffins. What a ſtriking picture of deſolation did this once cheerful and populous city preſent! How gloomy to a being ſurrounded with all theſe horrors, and who knew not in what manner they would terminate!

An affecting inſtance of accumulated domeſtic diſtreſs, is recorded in the minutes of the committee, page 71:

"One of the carters, in the ſervice of the committee, reports, that in the performance of his duty, he heard the cry of a perſon in great diſtreſs. The neighbours informed him, that the family had been ill ſome days, and that, being afraid of the diſeaſe, no one had ventured to examine the houſe. He cheerfully undertook the benevolent taſk—went up ſtairs, and to his ſurprize, found the father dead, who had been lying on the floor for ſome days, two children near him, alſo dead, and the mother in labour. He tarried with her; ſhe was delivered while he was there; and, in a ſhort time, both ſhe and her infant expired! He came to the city-hall, took coffins, and buried them all."

The diſeaſe, in its deſtructive career, had robbed many families of their head and ſupport, and left numerous infants wandering about the ſtreets, without any human being to own and protect them. The committee found here a new occaſion for the exerciſe of their paternal care, and accordingly eſtabliſhed an orphan-houſe, with a reſpectable matron to ſuperintend it. This inſtitution has, at different times, extended its ſhelter to one hundred and ninety-four children. At the diſſolution of the committee, they recommended theſe innocents to the protection of the legiſlature, in the moſt earneſt and affecting manner. An act of the General Aſſembly has ſince been paſſed, appointing guardians for theſe orphan children, and providing in a liberal manner for their ſupport and education.

On

On the 26th of October, the diſorder having very conſiderably abated, the committee addreſſed their fellow-citizens, congratulating them on the very flattering change that had taken place; but recommending to thoſe who were abſent not to return until the ſtate of the atmoſphere ſhould be altered by rain or cold weather. During the greateſt part of the diſorder, the heavens (to uſe a forcible ſcripture expreſſion) had been as braſs. To this uncommon drought may be attributed much of the violence and obſtinacy of the fever. Towards the latter end of October, the weather became more cool, and ſome rain deſcended. Although this unqueſtionably produced very ſalutary effects; yet, it is poſſible, that this circumſtance alone will not account for the very rapid declenſion of the diſeaſe. Mr. Carey devotes a whole chapter of his book to prove, that winds and rain had no effect at all, but that the ceſſation ought to be aſcribed to ſupernatural divine interference. He who believes that the Deity could as well employ natural as miraculous means to accompliſh his benevolent purpoſes, will undoubtedly conclude, that in this reſpect his piety is as miſtaken as his philoſophy is erroneous.

A Summary of Deaths, each Month, during the Fever.

In Auguſt, 1793, there died -	361
In September - - -	1514
In October - - - -	2045
In November - - -	124
Total	4044

A DESCRIPTION *of* MODERN BAGDAD.

[From Jackſon's Journey from India.]

BAGDAD is ſeated on the eaſtern banks of the Tigris. It is a large and populous city, extending along the banks of the river about three miles; and the length of the walls from the river being about two miles, gives it the form of an oblong ſquare. The houſes, though very inferior to European, are much better built than thoſe of Buſſora, but nearly in the ſame ſtyle.

Many of the public buildings, ſuch as moſques, minarets, and hummums are conſtructed of hewn ſtone, and make a very handſome appearance. Here is alſo an extenſive Ba-

zar, which is well ſupplied with variety of articles; but the prices in general are much higher than at Buſſora.

The Armenians are the principal merchants here; the manufactories carried on are few, and thoſe confined to articles for immediate uſe, as ſhoes, boots, clothes, ſadlery, and culinary articles.

The Armenians at Moſul ſend great quantities of copper down the Tigris to Bagdad upon rafts of timber faſtened together. On their arrival the rafts are ſold, wood being very ſcarce here. The copper is afterwards ſhipped for Buſſora on board large dows, which are uſually about ſix months in performing the voyage thither and back again. The copper is in ſmall round cakes about ſix inches broad, and nearly two inches thick in the middle, but gradually ſloping to the edges. It is of a quality nearly the ſame as Engliſh battery cake copper.

This trade, which has not long been carried on, is faſt increaſing to a very great extent; for ſometimes ſhips ſail from Buſſora laden almoſt entirely with copper; and I am perſuaded that it will in time prove prejudicial to the Engiſh manufactories. Labour being much cheaper in theſe countries than in Europe, they are enabled to carry it to a market at a much cheaper rate; and this makes it very profitable to thoſe at preſent concerned in it.

Though Bagdad is much better built than any other city in this part of the world, it is ſtill very inferior to many cities in Europe. Every houſe bears the appearance of a priſon, as deſcribed in Buſſora, but compoſed of better materials; they are in general of brick, and the timbers very good, being thoſe which are floated down the Tigris. The ſtreets are very narrow and duſty. I had near half a mile to go every night to ſleep, and uſually ſet out about eleven o'clock, always taking a Turkiſh ſervant with a lanthern, as it would have been very dangerous to walk at ſuch a time without a light. Scorpions, tarantulas, and other noxious inſects, were very numerous. Of the former I have frequently killed four or five in a night; they are of the large black kind, and their ſtings often prove mortal.

All perſons at this ſeaſon of the year ſleep on the tops of their houſes; and I have often been entertained by ſeeing the people run off with their clothes in their hands at ſun-riſe; for as ſoon as it has riſen above the horizon it becomes exceſſively hot. I ſoon learned, however, that even looking over our own parapet-wall was a deed of danger; for that the Turks would not heſitate a moment to ſhoot at any perſon

they might diſcover overlooking their houſes. The houſe where I ſlept was near the middle of the city, and very lofty, none being higher in the city, except the minarets, the ſeraglio, and a few houſes belonging to the miniſters and principal officers.

Here are many cranes, much larger and very different from any that we have in Europe. They build their neſts upon the tops of the minarets, and the loftieſt houſes, where they are never moleſted, and are in conſequence very tame. I have often been within two yards of their neſts without exciting in them any fear.

As there are no canals to water the city, many poor people are conſtantly employed in carrying water from the river in ſkins. Some take it on their backs, while others have aſſes and mules.

Without the walls, to the weſtward, is entirely deſert, not having the leaſt traces of vegetation, except on the banks of the river. Behind the city to the northward, the ſame barrenneſs prevails; there is no water nor any cultivation. To the eaſtward, along the banks of the river, there are excellent gardens, which extend about four miles; and a great many houſes filled with inhabitants ſtand without the walls.

The city, however, is chiefly ſupplied with fruits and vegetables from the oppoſite ſide of the river, where there is much cultivation.

The Baſhaw and ſome of the principal people have country ſeats in this neighbourhood. This was the ſcite of ancient Seleucia, built by Seleucus, one of Alexander's Generals, who ſucceeded to the government of this part of the country; and ſeveral of his coins are ſtill to be met with in Bagdad. The gold coin is worth about two guineas; it bears as ſtrong an impreſſion of the head as the ancient Roman coins, but has a long beard.

A little farther, towards Hilla, are ſtill to be ſeen ſome ruins of ancient Babylon.

Hiſtorical Account of Engliſh Poets Laureat.

DEGREES in grammar, which included rhetoric and verſification, having been anciently conferred in our univerſities, that circumſtance has occaſioned much confuſion, and has led ſome writers too haſtily to ſuppoſe that perſons were inveſted with the office of poet laureat who, in truth, had no claim to it. A wreath of laurel being preſented

to

to the new graduate on taking his degree, he was afterwards frequently ſtiled *poeta laureatus;* and this ſcholaſtic laureation certainly gave riſe to the appellation by which the court poet was diſtinguiſhed. The King's poet laureat, therefore, ſtrictly ſpeaking, is only a graduate rhetorician, employed in the ſervice of the King.

On this ſubject, Fuller makes the following obſervation* : "As for our Engliſh poets, ſome have aſſumed unto themſelves the title of laureat, as John Kay, in his dedication of "The Siege of Rhodes" to King Edward the Fourth, ſubſcribing himſelf his humble poet laureat. Others have, in compliment, given the title to ſuch perſons as were eminent in that faculty; and nothing is more uſual than to ſee their pictures before their books, and ſtatues on their tombs, ornamented accordingly. However, all this is done by civil courteſy, or common cuſtom; no ceremonious creation in court or univerſity."

So early as the thirteenth century, Henry d'Avranches, a Frenchman (Henricus Abrincenſis,) was entertained by our Henry III. as a poet attached to his court; and under the title of "Maſter Henry the verſifier" received from that monarch an annual ſtipend, which ſeems to have been ten pounds a year.

In the 36th year of the ſame King's reign (1252,) 40s. a year and a pipe of wine were granted to Richard, the King's harper; which perhaps gave riſe at a ſubſequent period to a ſimilar bounty to the poet laureat.

Gulielmus Peregrinus, who compoſed a poem on the cruſade of Richard I. appears to have been the royal poet of that time; and Robert Baſton, whom Ball calls *poeta Oxoniæ laureatus*, and whom Edward II. carried with him to the ſiege of Stirling-Caſtle, to record his Scottiſh exploits in verſe, may be conſidered as exerciſing the ſame office under that monarch. Of theſe verſifiers, as they were then called, the compoſitions produced in their character of poets laureat were in Latin.

Chaucer, perhaps, in the time of Edward III. and Richard II. as a poet, and as receiving a royal penſion, not without a due allowance of ſack; and in the time of Henry the Fourth, Henry Scogan, Maſter of Arts, who, if we may credit Ben Jonſon, made diſguiſes for the King's ſons, and wrote in fine tinkling rhyme and flowand verſe; may with ſufficient propriety be enrolled in the ſame tuneful and ho-

* Worthies of England, c. x. p. 27.

nourable band: yet neither theſe poets nor Gower, though two of them were afterwards enumerated in Dryden's patent, as having worn the laurel, were ever regularly and expreſsly appointed to this office; nor does the title of poet laureat occur earlier than the time of Edward IV. to whom John Kay (Caius,) about the year 1470, dedicating a proſe tranſlation of a Latin hiſtory of the ſiege of Rhodes, ſtyles himſelf hys humble poete lauriate. None of his poetry, however, either in Latin or Engliſh, is known to be extant.

Andrew Bernard, a Frenchman, and an Auguſtine monk, who was blind, was ſucceſſively poet laureat and hiſtoriographer to Henry VII. and Henry VIII. and was living in 1522.

In 1489, John Skelton was laureated as a rhetorician at Oxford, and a few years afterwards was permitted to wear the laurel publicly at Cambridge. Previouſly to which he had been honoured by Henry VII. with a grant to wear either ſome peculiar dreſs, or ſome additional ornament on his ordinary apparel. That he was poet laureat to Henry VIII. may be preſumed from the titles of ſome of his works, but there is not ſufficient proof of his ever having received an annual ſalary, which is a criterion for forming a conjecture, at leaſt, concerning the poſſeſſion of the office, for none of the perſons who may be conſidered as filling the ſtation before Dryden, except Andrew Bernard, are expreſsly denominated poets laureat in any authentic record.

Thomas Churchyard, a voluminous poetaſter in the time of Queen Elizabeth, in conſequence of having addreſſed many of the noblemen of her court for near 40 years, in ſuch rhymes as he could ſpin, is called by one of his contemporaries the old court poet; this has given riſe to a conjecture that he was peculiarly countenanced and patroniſed by the Queen, and formally placed at the head of the poetical band of that time; but, undoubtedly, Elizabeth had no poet laureat till in February, 1590-1, ſhe conferred on Edmund Spenſer, a penſion of 50l. a year; from which time to his death, in 1598-9, he may properly be conſidered as filling the office, though not expreſsly ſtiled laureat in his patent.

Samuel Daniel has been repreſented by Anthony Wood, and others, as the next ſucceſſor to the laurel, but he never was thus honoured; for from the death of Spenſer to the year 1616 the poetical throne was vacant, though in that period Daniel, Jonſon, Dekker, and others, furniſhed the court with pageants and maſques, and may, during that interval, be conſidered as volunteer laureats. About four

months

months before the death of Shakeſpeare, January 1, 1615-16, King James granted to Ben Jonſon a penſion of 100 marks a year (66l. 13s. 4d.) during his life, " in conſideration of his good and acceptable ſervices paſt and future ;" a grant which inveſted him with all the dignity and functions of poet laureat. This conſideration, however, is common to many other crown grants not conferred on poets ; nor did any patent expreſsly mention the duty and peculiar ſervices expected from a poet laureat, before that of Charles I. to the ſame perſon ; in which the character and functions of this office are, for the firſt time, ſpecifically pointed out. On the 23d of April, 1630, that King " in conſideration of good and acceptable ſervices done by the ſaid Benjamin Jonſon, and eſpecially to encourage him to proceed in thoſe ſervices of his wit and pen which we have enjoined unto him, and which we expect from him," was pleaſed to augment his annuity of one hundred marks to one hundred pounds per annum, during life, payable from the preceding Chriſtmas. Old Ben had not long before been ſtruck with the palſy, on which account, perhaps, as well as to gratify his well-known propenſity, his Majeſty, by the ſame inſtrument, granted him a tierce of Canary wine yearly, during his life, out of the royal cellars at Whitehall.

It has been generally ſuppoſed that Sir William d'Avenant ſucceeded to the bays immediately on Jonſon's death, in Auguſt, 1637 ; but he then received no favour from the crown. About ſixteen months afterwards, December 13, 1638, letters patent paſſed the great ſeal, granting an annuity of 100l. a year to the ſaid William d'Avenant, during his Majeſty's pleaſure. By this patent no Canary wine was given, nor is any mention made of the office of poet laureat, or the duties belonging to it.

In 1670, ſome time after the death of Sir William d'Avenant, Dryden was made poet laureat by letters patent, and held the office till he was compelled to forego it in conſequence of the revolution.

On the 29th of Auguſt, 1689, he was ſucceeded by Shadwell.

Shadwell's ſucceſſor was Nahum Tate, December 23, 1692, with an annual penſion of one hundred pounds, and a butt of Canary wine.

On the death of Tate, 1716, the laurel was given to Rowe; who dying in December, 1718, the Rev. Laurence Euſden, was in the following year inveſted with this office.

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On the death of Euſden, September 27, 1730, Colley Cibber was appointed poet laureat. His reign extended to the end of the year 1757.

To him ſucceeded William Whitehead, who dying on the 14th of April, 1785, the Rev. Thomas Warton obtained the laurel, which he held for five years.

Shortly after his death, which happened May 21, 1790, Henry James Pye, Eſq. was appointed poet laureat, and now fills the poetical throne.

There is no grant in the chapel of the rolls, conſtituting Rowe poet laureat. The practice of conferring this office by a warrant ſigned and ſealed by the Lord Chamberlain, nominating A. B. to the office, with the accuſtomed fees thereunto belonging, then commenced, and has prevailed from that time to the preſent.

ACCOUNT *of the late* LORD VISCOUNT SIDNEY.

IN the month of July, 1800, died, at his ſeat at Chiſlehurſt, in Kent, the Right Hon. Thomas Townſend, Viſcount Sidney. He was the ſon of the Right Hon. Thomas Townſend, who ſat ſo many years in Parliament for the Univerſity of Cambridge. The family having an intereſt in the borough of Whitchurch, Mr. Townſend was elected Member of Parliament for that borough, at the general election, in 1754, when he was only 21 years of age. He continued to repreſent this borough ſo long as he ſat in the Houſe of Commons. He entered early into the army, and in 1756, was promoted to be Major in Arabin's regiment of foot, and in 1761, Lieutenant-Colonel of the 57th: Next year he was promoted to be Colonel in the army.

With the peace of 1762, he ended his military and began his Parliamentary career. The ſame year he married a Miſs Powys, daughter and co-heireſs of Richard Powys, Eſq. by whom he had many children. From his entrance into Parliament he attached himſelf to the Whig party. We hear nothing of him, however, as a ſenator, till the year 1763, when the preliminaries of the peace of Verſailles were laid before the Houſe of Commons. On the motion of approbation of this peace, Colonel Townſend was one of the tellers for the oppoſition. With this party Colonel Townſend continued to act until the year 1765, when, on their coming into power, he was appointed one of the Lords of the Treaſury.

The principles of this adminiſtration did not accord with the ruling paſſion of the court, and in leſs than a twelvemonth they went out of office; but the Colonel had taſted too much of the ſweets of office to go out with them; and in the arrangement of the Duke of Grafton's adminiſtration, Colonel Townſend was made Joint Pay-Maſter General, and ſworn of the Privy Council. He held this place about a year, and then reſigned.

An anecdote is told of this reſignation, which does both the deceaſed Lord and his father ſome credit. He had appeared uneaſy at his ſituation, which, having a large and growing family, he could not conveniently part with; his father adviſed him to reſign, which he did; and for which his father, the next day, preſented him with a very conſiderable ſum of money, ſaid to amount to ten thouſand pounds; he immediately joined his friends on the Oppoſition Bench, with whom he laboured for fourteen long years. And, although as little gifted for an orator as any man in the Houſe, yet no one was a more conſtant ſpeaker; and he certainly poſſeſſed the talent of *badgering* the Miniſter (Lord North) equal to any in St. Stephen's Chapel.

Colonel Townſend was always connected with the party of Lord Chatham; and at the death of that great Miniſter was one of thoſe who ſupported his pall. With the Rockingham adminiſtration he again came into place, as Secretary at War, but as before, did not chooſe to go out with them; and was, by Lord Shelburne, made one of the Secretaries of State. The coalition Miniſtry removed him, for a ſhort time, but Mr. Pitt reſtored him, and at the ſame time he was created Baron Sidney, of Chiſlehurſt, in Kent.

On the eſtabliſhment of the India Board, his Lordſhip was appointed one of the Commiſſioners of that Board. A marriage between the Earl of Chatham, brother of the Premier, and one of his daughters, connected him ſtill cloſer with the Pitt family, and through that connection, in 1789, he obtained the dignity of Viſcount, and exchanged the office of Secretary of State for one of the ſinecure places of Chief Juſtice in Eyre. Since this he has been a very warm ſupporter of the preſent Miniſtry.

The circumſtances of his death were rather peculiar. Returning from his morning's ride, he went into the garden, and walked round the pond, and then returned into the parlour, deſiring the ſervant to give him pen and ink, and he would write to his attorney when he ſhould be in town. After writing, "Sir, I ſhall be ——" his Lordſhip fell back

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on his chair in a fit; Mr. Townſend, his eldeſt ſon, who was with him, called for aſſiſtance, but to no purpoſe. The laſt words his Lordſhip ſpoke, were, "Give me my draught!" About three minutes afterwards he expired. His Lordſhip is ſucceeded in his title and eſtates by the Hon. John Thomas Townſend, as Lord of the Treaſury.

On VIEWING *the* SEA *at* SIDMOUTH.

By the late Dr. JAMES FORDYCE.

IN this place of ſecurity, I view unaffrighted, though not unawed, the majeſtic ocean, ſpread out before me. Stupendous image of thy power, Omnipotent Creator! not leſs of thy benevolence, Univerſal Parent! Was it not formed by thee to unite in bonds of mutual intercourſe, thy wide extended family of mankind; to carry through various and diſtant nations the reſpective productions and diſcoveries of each; to relieve or diminiſh their mutual wants, and diſſeminate the bleſſings of religion and humanity unto the ends of the earth? But who can number the tribes or tell the diverſity of living creatures with which thou haſt repleniſhed this mighty receptacle of waters, fitting all to enjoy their native element, and many to ſupply a rich and wholeſome nouriſhment for man? May he receive it with thankſgiving as one of thoſe benefits that, when placed within his power, were intended to employ his induſtry, and ſtrengthen him for thy ſervice! Nor would I forget to acknowledge that benignant Providence which hath, in ſo many other ways, rendered the ſame element conducive to health and comfort, by furniſhing ſtores of ſalt to ſeaſon and preſerve our food, by refreſhing the adjacent coaſts with ſalutary breezes, by invigorating the weak and reſtoring the diſeaſed, that bathe in its briny waves!

AN ANECDOTE.

HIS Majeſty King James the Firſt, in one of his addreſſes to his Parliament, curiouſly remarks—"That wiſdom in a ſubject is as inferior to wiſdom in a monarch, as the glittering of a nail in a horſe's ſhoe is to the ſplendour of a ſtar in the firmament!"—This brilliant ſpeech was, no doubt, a proof of his Majeſty's *modeſty*.

BON MOT.

DR. THOMAS NETTLETON, of Halifax, one of the inſtructors of Profeſſor Sanderſon in the mathematics, being one day in company with ſeveral gentlemen, one of them was laying great ſtreſs upon Dean Echard's account of Cromwell's ſelling himſelf to the Devil before the battle of Worceſter, affirming that the bargain was intended for 21 years, but that the Devil had put a trick upon Oliver, by tranſpoſing the figures, and ſo leſſening the term nine years; and then turning haſtily to Dr. Nettleton, aſked him what could be the Devil's motive for ſo doing. Dr. Nettleton, without heſitation replied, "I ſuppoſe he was in a hurry for the *reſtoration*."

Anſwer, by P. A. Kavanagh, of Exeter, to the Charade, inſerted June 2.

HOW happy will this country be
When war and bloodſhed ceaſe;
When theſe vile ſcenes will have an end,
And FIRELOCKS lie at eaſe.

*** We have received the like anſwer from R. Andrews, and J. King, of Kingſbridge; T. Whicker, and R. Thomas, of Exeter; R. Maffett, of Saltaſh; Philom. of Teingmouth; W. Bickham, junior, of Aſhburton; N. Knott, and J. Ball, jun. of Taunton; T. Jarvis, of Malborough; R. Baker, of the Poole Volunteers; J. Bulgin, of Caſtle Cary; Serjeant Whittle, of the Upway Volunteers; and G. Coulman, of Broadhempſton.

Anſwer, by R. Andrews, of Kingſbridge, to Serjeant Aſh's Anagram, inſerted June 9.

THE OCEAN, if tranſpos'd with care,
A CANOE ſoon will make appear;
Eraſe one letter, here's a CANE,
Which ofttimes doth aſſiſt the lame;
Change it again, if I am right,
'Twill bring the French town CAEN to fight.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from Philom. of Teingmouth; John King, of Kingſbridge; Edward Sher-

man, of Cornwood; G. Coulman, of Broadhempſton; R. Thomas, of Exeter; J. Whiteway, of Dartington; and Serjeant Field, of the late fourth Devon militia.

A QUESTION, *by Mathematicus.*

GIVEN the diagonal of a cone's fruſtum = 50, and the ratio of the diameters, as 3:7, to find the dimenſions, when the ſolidity is a maximum. To be worked by a fluxionary proceſs.

A REBUS, *by Y——, of Phillack.*

JUDICIOUS BARDS, a ſcience firſt expound;
A King of Babylon muſt next be found;
The deity that o'er the ſea preſides;
Laſtly one of the Nine muſt be deſcry'd:

Arrange the initials, and the fame combine,
A fair-one's name you quickly will define,
Whoſe lovely form is finiſh'd elegance,
Whoſe guileleſs ſoul is truth and innocence.

A CHARADE, *by W. Rennels, of Barnſtaple.*

YE connoiſſeurs of myſtic themes,
Whoſe prying genius oft is try'd,
Explore my firſt where nature ſeems
Her ſubterraneous works to hide.

My next an Engliſh hero bold;
My whole an occupation name:
Go ſearch the ſcriptures, where behold
St. Paul makes mention of the ſame.

*** *W. Rennels, of Barnſtaple, wiſhes to inform a certain correſpondent, that if he will refer to the Entertainer for April 30, 1798, he will find the rebus adverted to correctly anſwered by Mr. G. Hazell.*

☞ *Poſtage of letters muſt be paid; and genuine anſwers to queſtions, &c. are requeſted to be ſent with them.*

POETRY.

The HOP-GATHERING.

[From Dr. Booker's Poem, entitled, "The Hop-Garden."]

NIGHT's ſhadowy veil withdrawn, now orient ſkies
Beam with tranſcendant glory, ev'ry plain
Tinting with roſeate hue. The journeying tribe,
Refreſh'd, light's glorious riſing gladly hail.
Wak'd by the cock's ſhrill clarion up they ſpring;
And, ready veſted, joyous ſally forth,
Grateful to Him who gave them balmy reſt,
Nor mindleſs of a bleſſing for the friend
Whoſe evening bounty, and whoſe nightly bed,
Reſtor'd them—faint and weary. Roſy morn
Empurples all the eaſt, and on the tops
Of higheſt mountains, Malvern! thine, ſheds gold.
See! o'er a ſheet continuous and vaſt
Of fineſt net-work, which Arachne's train
Or fairies wove, innumerable gems—
Brilliant and changeful, tremble with the breeze.
Now roll the dappled clouds before the ſun,
Like ſhrouded veſſels on the azure main
Before Britannia's trident, when loud calls
Bellona the ſurrounding world to war.
Hills, woods, and foreſts, ſhadowy vales, and plains,
Capacious bays, and promontories huge
Fring'd with ſoft-tufted foliage, fancy ſees
In thoſe aerial forms which richly veil
The blue expanſe of Heav'n. By ſlow degrees
Theſe vaniſh; and, auguſtly from his couch,
Riſes the king of day. Lo! with him riſe
Creation's tenants—man, and bird, and beaſt,
And earth rejoicing ſmiles. The village ſmokes;
The woods are vocal; and the teeming kine
Unite their lowings with the bleating flocks:
Theſe for the ruddy milk-maid,—thoſe from fold
To be reſtor'd to paſture.—O'er yon field,
Yok'd recent, lo! athletic oxen drag
The glebe-inverting plough:—the woodman's axe
Sounds thro' the echoing glade, and ſudden frights
The whirring covey from their firſt repaſt.
The ſtock-dove cooes: and, dipping in its flight,
The long-bill'd woodpecker on gloſſy wing
Flits, laughing, mockingly, from tree to tree.

While rural ſights and ſounds like theſe delight
At morn's delicious hour, the wand'rers poor
With ſleep refreſh'd hie merrily along.
No money in their ſcrip—they, like the birds
Which ſing around them, truſt to bounteous Heav'n
For daily ſuſtenance, nor truſt in vain.
Again the good befriend them; and, ere night

Enſhroud

Enſhroud the mountains, wearied they arrive
Where riſes to their view the village ſpire
Faſt by the planter's dwelling. Here they meet
With many a face, well known, tho' not beheld,
Perchance, ſince twelve times wan'd the ſilver moon
Which now ſerenely peers above the hills.

Their evening meal concluded, they retire
To reſt; and, lodg'd in hovels and in barns,
Far ſweeter ſleep than oriental Kings
Encanopied by purple ſtarr'd with gold.
No dreams are their's of treachery and wrongs,
Inſpir'd by vengeful conſcience; but ſerene
As the ſcarce-ſtirring zephyr, they repoſe
Till, bluſhing in the eaſt, Aurora wakes,
And labour calls them to their daily taſks.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The LOVER's COMPLAINT.

THE diſtant bell, with awful ſound,
Recalls to mind our deſtin'd doom;
And bids the peuſive ſwains around
To bathe with tears the ſhepherd's tomb.

But ſoon, alas! their ſorrows ceaſe,
With ſongs their labours they purſue;
Forgetting friends who ſleep in peace,
They bid their tranſient cares adieu!

Delightful mirth my hours would bleſs
Could I like them my grief forſake;
But ah! the pangs which I poſſeſs
With every morning ſun awake.

And when the moon with ſilver beam
Recalls mankind to ſoft repoſe,
With downcaſt looks I trace the ſtream
Which near my native cottage flows.

'Twas there in ſnowy garments dreſt,
I firſt beheld my Laura's charms;
'Twas there my love I firſt confeſt,
And claſp'd the damſel in my arms.

But now no more the blooming fair
Returns to this ſequeſter'd vale;
For blind to all my ſad deſpair
In vain I tell my plaintive tale.

In ſighs I ſpend the gloomy eve,
And mourn the cruel fate's decree;
Amidſt the ſylvan ſhade I grieve,
And carve her name on every tree.

Each day the charming name ſtill larger grows,
The trueſt pledge of my increaſing woes.

CONSTANTIUS.